

## REMARKS

Claims 4-55 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I: The species where a microchip has a sample separation area including columnar bodies;

Species II: The species where a microchip has a sample separation area including a plurality of concavities and a concave hole in a channel.

Species III: The species where a sample separation area has two discrete areas including hydrophobic and hydrophilic regions.

Species IV: The species where a sample separation unit has sample adsorption particles consisting of silica gels for example.

Species V: The species where a sample selectively undergoes depolymerization.

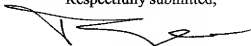
It is the Examiner's position that the inventions listed above are distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's Requirement for Species Election, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Claims 4-13 directed to Species I.

Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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